

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA  
SOUTHERN DIVISION

W. T. Hunt, JR., :  
Plaintiff, :  
vs. : CIVIL ACTION 06-00227-KD-B  
T. Brannon, et al., :  
Defendants. :

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION

This is an action by a former Alabama inmate alleging violations of 42 U.S.C. § 1983. This case was referred to the undersigned Magistrate Judge pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(B) and Local Rule 72.2(c)(4) for appropriate action. Because Plaintiff has failed to prosecute and to comply with the Court's Order, it is recommended that this action be dismissed without prejudice.

Plaintiff filed this Section 1983 action on April 10, 2006, while incarcerated at Limestone Correctional Facility. (Doc. 1). After a review of Plaintiff's complaint, the Court entered an Order directing Plaintiff to re-file his Complaint on the Court's form and to pay the \$350.00 filing fee, or in lieu thereof, file a Motion to Proceed Without Prepayment of Fees by May 21, 2006. (Doc. 2). Additionally, the Court directed the Clerk to send to Plaintiff the appropriate forms for a complaint and motion to proceed without prepayment of fees.

On May 22, 2006, Plaintiff filed a new complaint and a motion to proceed without prepayment of fees on the correct forms (Docs. 3, 4). In an Order dated August 7, 2006, Plaintiff was granted permission to proceed without prepayment of fees. (Doc. 6).

On October 25, 2007, the Court learned from the Alabama Department of Corrections that Plaintiff had been released from the Department's custody and was presently on parole. (Doc. 16). As a result, in an Order dated October 29, 2007 (Doc. 17), the Court observed that because Plaintiff initiated this action while he was a prisoner, he remained obligated to pay the entire \$350.00 filing fee in this action. Gay v. Texas Dept. of Corrections State Jail Div., 117 F.3d 240, 242 (5th Cir. 1997); 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(1). Accordingly, Plaintiff was directed to pay the filing fee by November 29, 2007, or in lieu thereof, to submit a new motion to proceed without prepayment of fees so the Court could determine a payment schedule for the payment of the \$350.00 filing fee. (Doc. 17). Plaintiff was cautioned that his failure to comply with the Court's Order within the prescribed time would result in the dismissal of this action for failure to prosecute and to obey the Court's Order. Notwithstanding the Court's directive, Plaintiff did not pay the filing fee nor submit a new motion to proceed without prepayment of fees.

Accordingly, on December 17, 2007, the Court entered an Order directing Plaintiff to show cause by January 7, 2008, why his

Section 1983 action should not be dismissed for his failure to prosecute and to obey the Court's Order of October 29, 2007. (Doc. 21). To date, Plaintiff has not responded in any manner to the Court's Order (Doc. 21), nor has Plaintiff's copy of the Order been returned to the Court.

Due to Plaintiff's failure to comply with the Court's Order, the undersigned concludes that Plaintiff has abandoned the prosecution of this action. Upon consideration of the alternatives that are available to the Court, it is recommended that this action be dismissed without prejudice pursuant to Rule 41(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure as no other lesser sanction will suffice. Link v. Wabash R.R., 370 U.S. 626, 630, 82 S.Ct. 1386, 8 L.Ed.2d 734 (1962) (interpreting Rule 41(b) not to restrict the court's inherent authority to dismiss sua sponte an action for lack of prosecution); World Thrust Films, Inc. v. International Family Entertainment, Inc., 41 F.3d 1454, 1456-57 (11th Cir. 1995); Mingo v. Sugar Cane Growers Co-op, 864 F.2d 101, 102 (11th Cir. 1989); Goforth v. Owens, 766 F.2d 1533, 1535 (11th Cir. 1985); Jones v. Graham, 709 F.2d 1457, 1458 (11th Cir. 1983). Accord Chambers v. NASCO, Inc., 501 U.S. 32, 111 S.Ct. 2123, 115 L.Ed.2d 27 (1991) (ruling that federal courts' inherent power to manage their own proceedings authorized the imposition of attorney's fees and related expenses as a sanction); Malautea v. Suzuki Motor Co., 987 F.2d 1536, 1545-46 (11th Cir.) (finding that the court's inherent

power to manage actions before it permitted the imposition of fines), cert. denied, 510 U.S. 863, 114 S.Ct. 181, 126 L.Ed.2d 140 (1993).

The attached sheet contains important information regarding objections to this Report and Recommendation.

**DONE** this **18th** day of **January, 2008**.

/s/ SONJA F. BIVINS  
**UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE**

MAGISTRATE JUDGE'S EXPLANATION OF PROCEDURAL RIGHTS  
AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATION  
AND FINDINGS CONCERNING NEED FOR TRANSCRIPT

1. **Objection.** Any party who objects to this recommendation or anything in it must, within ten days of the date of service of this document, file specific written objections with the clerk of court. Failure to do so will bar a *de novo* determination by the district judge of anything in the recommendation and will bar an attack, on appeal, of the factual findings of the magistrate judge. See 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(c); *Lewis v. Smith*, 855 F.2d 736, 738 (11th Cir. 1988); *Nettles v. Wainwright*, 677 F.2d 404 (5th Cir. Unit B, 1982)(*en banc*). The procedure for challenging the findings and recommendations of the magistrate judge is set out in more detail in SD ALA LR 72.4 (June 1, 1997), which provides that:

A party may object to a recommendation entered by a magistrate judge in a dispositive matter, that is, a matter excepted by 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(A), by filing a "Statement of Objection to Magistrate Judge's Recommendation" within ten days after being served with a copy of the recommendation, unless a different time is established by order. The statement of objection shall specify those portions of the recommendation to which objection is made and the basis for the objection. The objecting party shall submit to the district judge, at the time of filing the objection, a brief setting forth the party's arguments that the magistrate judge's recommendation should be reviewed *de novo* and a different disposition made. It is insufficient to submit only a copy of the original brief submitted to the magistrate judge, although a copy of the original brief may be submitted or referred to and incorporated into the brief in support of the objection. Failure to submit a brief in support of the objection may be deemed an abandonment of the objection.

A magistrate judge's recommendation cannot be appealed to a Court of Appeals; only the district judge's order or judgment can be appealed.

2. **Transcript (applicable where proceedings tape recorded).**

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915 and Fed.R.Civ.P. 72(b), the magistrate judge finds that the tapes and original records in this action are adequate for purposes of review. Any party planning to object to this recommendation, but unable to pay the fee for a transcript, is advised that a judicial determination that transcription is necessary is required before the United States will pay the cost of the transcript.